



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

TO THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Dear Doctor

Is your wife a member of the Woman's Auxiliary to your County Medical Society? If the answer is "yes," both you and she will be interested in the facts we shall bring out in these paragraphs. If the answer is "no," we are hopeful that you will read with interest the material we are presenting.

The annual convention of the Woman's Auxiliary to the American Medical Association was held in Chicago June 11th to 15th, at the same time as the A.M.A. convention. Those of us who were representing the California Auxiliary were pleased to hear that once again our Auxiliary was the largest in the 48 states, as we have been for the past several years. I say we were pleased, but at the same time we realize that when certain statistics are made known we are not as large as it would appear at first glance. The important thing to consider is how nearly we are reaching our potential. The potential, state-wide, is around 14,000 and yet our state membership in the Auxiliary is just under 7,000. Many of our smaller County Auxiliaries very nearly reach their potential, for here seems to exist a close relationship between the County Medical Society and the Auxiliary. Here it is that the physicians seem best to know the capabilities of the women and to appreciate their accomplishments in behalf of medicine.

It is in our large metropolitan counties that the memberships of the two organizations are in need of being drawn more closely together. For example, the potential in Los Angeles County (excepting the associate members) is around 6,000 and yet the largest number the Auxiliary has ever recorded is 1,700. There are several reasons for this. The hospitals have their own auxiliaries to which many of the physicians' wives belong and which consume all the free time these women have to give. The county is heavily organized and the wives are representative women who participate in civic, school and religious activities in their separate communities. However, there still remains a large area not covered, which includes many wives of physicians who know little or nothing of the Auxiliary, its purposes or its achievements. The Membership Chairman contacts each newly accepted member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association and through him invites his wife to membership in the Auxiliary. Perhaps this invitation never gets home to the wife, or perhaps the physician is too busy to talk it over with her

and recommend that she join. In some cases it is a matter of complete indifference because nothing of the activities of the Auxiliary has come to the attention of the physician.

At the convention in June the Woman's Auxiliary to the A.M.A. gave the American Medical Educational Foundation a check in excess of \$100,000 from the Auxiliary. This was the result of the activity of the Auxiliary all over the United States in behalf of private medical schools. Los Angeles County Auxiliary received an Award of Merit for its very substantial contribution in the County classification.

During the round-table discussion on Legislation the speaker for the A.M.A. stressed how impressive had been the results of the Auxiliary campaign for wires and letters sent to the legislators in opposition to HR Bill No. 7225 relative to Social Security. Each chairman of legislation at the state and county level had a part in this program.

It was heartening to hear the reports of the National Nurse Recruitment Committees. Thousands of Future Nurses' Clubs are in action all over the country in junior and senior high schools. They will bring in many girls to the nursing field and thus help to cut down the shortage of nurses which now exists all over the medical world.

In California the Woman's Auxiliary is very active in behalf of Physicians' Benevolence. This, we feel, is a service to our own, an effort to make life a little easier for physicians who have met with misfortune and who must look to others for help.

We feel sure that when your wife has a chance to review the many areas of endeavor of the Auxiliary and the outstanding accomplishments in these areas she will wish to become a part of the organization. Even if her family demands are too great for her to give much of her time she will be greatly rewarded for whatever time she is able to spare. She will enjoy being enlisted in so great a cause.

Doctor, if you are one whose wife is not yet a member of her County Auxiliary, won't you help us to bring her into membership with us? If your County Medical Society is one of the few which does not yet have an Auxiliary, we hope you will give serious thought to having one organized this year. We need your help in order to give our maximum service to your community needs.